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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
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In Re Application of:

ABRIGNANI et al.

Serial No.: 09/755,251

Group Art Unit: 1642

Filing Date: January 5, 2001

Examiner: B. Brumback

Title: BINDING PROTEIN

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**RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION
AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Restriction Requirement dated February 8, 2002, with a shortened statutory period of one month for response. Accordingly an extension of time in which to respond is requested and a petition and fee accompany this response.

The Examiner in the Restriction Requirement required election of one of the following groups of claims:

Group I, claim 21, drawn to a method of treating a patient;
Group II, claims 22 and 24, drawn to a protein and composition; and
Group III, claim 23, drawn to a process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition.